

I have had firsthand experience with the fruits of Kent Marlor's educational efforts. Over the years, at least 10 of my Senate interns have been his students as well as several current and former members of my staff. When talking about his former students, Marlor said, "My reward for being a teacher comes when I see what my students have accomplished."

Before his long and distinguished teaching career, Marlor served his count in Naval Intelligence and at the National Security Agency. He has also served as president of the Idaho Wildlife Federation and the chairman of the Idaho Fish and Game Advisory Committee. At his side in many of these meetings was his wife of over 50 years, Sharon. Together they raised six children who have also been very active in education and in their communities.

Even though he has served in our Nation's Armed Forces, intelligence service, and in various community organizations, his most gratifying service has come with the Teton Peaks Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Over the years, Kent and Sharon earned their spot in the Boy Scout Hall of Fame by organizing countless campouts, merit badge camps, Eagle Scout projects and Courts of Honor. In recognition of his efforts, Kent was honored with the Silver Beaver Award in 1982. Sharon was honored with the same award in 1989.

Kent loves the outdoors. His love of fishing is legendary in the Upper Snake River Valley. There isn't a lake, reservoir, river, stream, creek, ditch, or puddle that hasn't been explored with his beloved rod and reel at least once in the last 40 years. It is my understanding that Scout troops who go on extended camping trips with Kent don't take much food with them. Wherever they go, Kent is sure to provide plenty of fresh trout for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Kent taught his Scouts to appreciate the beauty around them as well as how to conserve it for future generations.

I wish Kent and Sharon Marlor many happy years in retirement and thank them both for the contribution to education and the youth of Idaho.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY BOURDETTE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Mary Bourdette, who passed away earlier this month after a 15-month struggle with ALS. My condolences go to Mary's family and the many friends and colleagues with whom she shared her spirit and commitment to social justice and making our country stronger through our families.

Mary is missed by me and so many others who had the honor to work with her as she championed the needs of those who have no voice in the political process. Our nation is truly better for Mary's 30 years of work on behalf of children and families.

Mary, who keenly understood the legislative process, combined her pas-

sion for good policy with a political pragmatism that yielded real results. She never lost sight of the important issues and built effective coalitions to guide important legislation to passage. Most notably, her focus on the children never wavered.

Her commitment, talent, and leadership improved the lives of countless Americans. I had the honor to have worked with her over the past 20 years on behalf of those among us with the greatest needs. Mary had an ability to get to the heart of the matter and move it forward. She was a driving force during the 3½ years we worked to win enactment of the child care and development block grant. She played a critical role in expanding the earned-income tax credit to help even more low-income families. She also helped to move forward important bills related to foster care and adoption. Her keen understanding of the technical Federal budget process benefited innumerable children and their families.

I am especially grateful for Mary's tireless work related to Head Start. During reauthorization of this important legislation in 1993, she was instrumental in the creation of Early Head Start that provided more comprehensive assistance to parents and their infants and toddlers. When the law was again reauthorized in 1998, Mary was there to ensure that it was further strengthened.

I applaud Mary's many accomplishments throughout her distinguished career. From the Legal Services Corporation to the Children's Defense Fund to the Child Welfare League of America to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, her dedication to helping the most vulnerable among us never wavered.

Mary Bourdette made enormous contributions and left all of us with much to protect and to build on in the future. We and the Nation's families are so grateful to Mary for her dedication and work to better the lives of our Nation's children.●

#### EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, over the August recess, I had the opportunity to visit the newly opened community health centers of Southern Iowa, located in Leon, IA. I had been fortunate to secure \$300,000 for renovations and equipment at the facility, and I was eager to see how these resources are being put to use.

As I toured the facility and talked with staff, I was freshly reminded of the extraordinary public service rendered by community health centers all across the United States. But the center in Leon is truly exceptional. The facility itself is welcoming, modern, and well equipped. And the staff members—from physicians to nurses to custodians—are truly an inspiration. They clearly have a special passion for their work, and they take pride in the

fact that they are providing first-rate health care in one of the most underserved areas of my State.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., used to say that "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Let me tell you, the dedicated professionals at the community health centers of Southern Iowa have answered that question in powerful ways. They have committed themselves to providing high-quality health care to all comers, regardless of ability to pay. All are welcomed equally. All are served with excellence.

This is why, as ranking member on the education and health appropriations subcommittee, I am 100 percent committed to securing appropriate funding for community health centers. One thing I know for certain: Every dollar Congress appropriates for centers like the one in Leon is a dollar spent wisely and frugally. It never ceases to amaze me how their staffs are able to do so much—and to serve so many people—with such modest resources.

I daresay that nobody in the health care profession faces greater challenges than those who choose to work in community health centers—challenges including chronic illness, cultural and linguistic differences, geographical barriers, homelessness, and on and on. Nothing stops these superb professionals.

And one more thing: community health centers have a well-deserved reputation for caring and kindness. In some ways, their physicians and nurses are a throwback to another era. They offer a direct and personal style of health care. They follow up. They care about prevention and wellness.

So I am deeply grateful to executive director Gary Rees, to medical director, Dr. Patricia Magle, and to all the wonderful staff and board members at the community health centers of Southern Iowa. They work their hearts out to provide the very best health care in a part of my State that has been neglected for too long. I deeply appreciate their passion, their compassion, and their dedication to public service.

Mr. President, in late August, I had the pleasure of attending a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new United Community Health Center in Storm Lake, IA. Having secured funding for the center, which actually opened its doors last March, I was eager to meet with the staff and assess their progress.

I was incredibly impressed by all that this facility has been able to accomplish with relatively modest resources. I call it "the little community health center that could." The facility is welcoming, modern, and well equipped. And the staff members are truly an inspiration. They have a special passion for their work, and they take pride in the fact that they are providing first-rate health care to underserved communities.